

David Horvitz

435 Ponti e qualche scorciatoia

(435 bridges and some shortcuts)

Press release - 7th March 2019

Venice



LABORATOIRE
ARTISTIQUE
DU GROUPE BEL

3 Easy Pieces #2

David Horvitz

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Venice, May 7 - November 25, 2019

A site-specific project by Lab'Bel in the public space during the 58th Biennale: an art performance throughout Venice

Curator: Silvia Guerra

Opening on May 7, 8 and 9, during professionals' week

435 Ponti e qualche scorciatoia is the second piece from the series *3 Easy Pieces*, an art in public spaces project produced by Lab'Bel for Venice. The first one was *Concertino Unisono** by Michael Staab and took place in Saint Mark's Square in 2015.

This project is conceived in close collaboration with Venetians, local institutions, craftspeople, residents and musicians. In this project we can see the heritage of the Fluxus movement whose energy permeates the entire series.

435 Ponti e qualche scorciatoia is a work by David Horvitz, a poet and artist living in Los Angeles.

The entire city of Venice is imagined as the site of the exhibition, where things happen, disappear and reappear...

The project is a wandering through the city, sometimes flooded in *acqua alta*, where only the bridges connecting the islands allow the city to be walkable.

Wandering is an unwritten manifest on slowness.

It is a desired program, dreamed of, different from the 'dérives' of the Situationists who used walking to shift the immediate experience of the city, to reinvent a subject. Here walking goes beyond its own purpose of arriving at a destination; it is what we use to sketch the form of the city according to our own breath. Keeping the city standing through our own movement.

Does a visitor with only one day in Venice have the time to wander the city? Does the Biennale art-addicted wildlife visit Saint Mark's Basilica to admire the art there or in the church of Santa Maria Gloriosa dei Frari? Do they have time to listen to stories about Venice and its bells?

Since the birth of Venice, time has been measured in a different way: day started at sunset, the first hour of the day was the first hour after sundown. Today most of the hands on the city's mechanical clocks no longer work but time can still be measured by the dilated pupils of cats' eyes. A practice once used by Japanese ninja, or so David tells me.

David Horvitz will do a performative walk over all of Venice's bridges by night. How much time do you need to walk its 435 bridges? How many shortcuts can you take? Local tourist guides will tell this story, and take you to a place where a *granita* tastes like the Adriatic Sea.

During his stay in the city, the artist will develop a constellation of projects in collaboration with Venetians: tourist guides, pipe organ players, artisans, and ice-cream makers, which will be activated during the period of the Biennale.

Where can this project be found?

It all depends if you have the time to take a moment out of your hectic life to go somewhere, it's in this in-between moment that you will find it... Either on a postcard from a kiosk or on the paper used to wrap your *zabaione fritelle* (do you even know what 'zabaione' is?)

You might hear it in Stravinsky's *3 Easy Pieces* emanating from the pipe organ of a nearby church, played by children.

See you soon in Venice!

A presto!

Silvia Guerra,
Curator of *435 Ponti e qualche scorciatoia* and Artistic Director of Lab'Bel

David Horvitz

David Horvitz (lives in Los Angeles) works with installation, photography, mail, performance, sound, artist books, watercolor, digital media, text and film. His practice revolves around notions regarding individual relationships to time, distance and the reappropriation of human experience. Horvitz has participated in numerous exhibitions in venues such as: La Criée, Centre d'Art Contemporain, Rennes (2019); S.M.A.K., Ghent (2018); Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2017); HangarBicocca, Milan (2017); Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus (2016); MOCAK Museum of Contemporary Art in Krakow, (2016); NOMAS Foundation, Rome (2016); Israel Museum, Jerusalem (2016); Mambo Bologna, Bologna (2015); Museum Morsbroich, Leverkusen (2015) and New Museum, New York (2014). He will be featured in the upcoming group exhibition *snap+share: transmitting photographs from mail art to social networks*, at SFMOMA in March 2019.

3 Easy Pieces

3 Easy Pieces is an ensemble of performative proposals with the city of Venice as its backdrop, occurring over different editions of the Venice Biennale of Contemporary Art. The title is a tribute to an ensemble of teaching pieces for the piano composed by Igor Stravinsky, who was buried, in accordance with his last wishes, in the cemetery on the island of San Michele.

Three performances, four hands - those of an artist and a curator who accompanies the former in the realization of this project.

Each of these interventions attempts to take the pulse of the ducal city within the context of the creative energy that surrounds the Biennale. While relying on a profound knowledge of the city, its inhabitants and networks, the project also advocates - not without a certain impertinence and inquiring spirit - discretion, evanescence and lightness, in contrast to some of the imposing and spectacular productions generally produced for the Biennale.

The series *3 Easy Pieces* invites us to reconnect with the uniquely easy-going pace that characterizes this city by taking a moment to breathe deeply in opposition to the frenetic toing and froing that characterizes mass cultural tourism and the institutional rationale driving art and its market.

Two tempos, three movements - like a detour, a digression...

Laurent Fiévet,
Director of Lab'Bel

* Weblink to *3 Easy Pieces* #1 project: *Concertino Unisono* by Micheal Staab (May 8, 9 and 10, 2015 - Saint Mark's Square, Venice)
www.lab-bel.com/en/event/concertino-unisono-by-michael-staab/

About Lab'Bel

The Lab'Bel Arts and Cultural Fund was created in the spring of 2010 to support contemporary art. The activities of this laboratory of ideas and impertinent innovation are shared between the development of a contemporary art collection - now on long-term loan at the Musée des Beaux-Arts in Dôle - and the organization of exhibitions and artistic events throughout France and Europe. Lab'Bel is also behind a series of performative multidisciplinary projects ranging from modernist architecture to poetry or music.

In parallel, Lab'Bel is responsible for a number of publications and artist's editions, including for example *The Collector's Edition Boxes of The Laughing Cow®*, created every year by a different contemporary artist, in close collaboration with the Bel team, giving rise to a range of research and experimentation.

Laurent Fiévet and Silvia Guerra act as director and artistic director, respectively.

More info at: www.lab-bel.com

Practical information

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Opening May 7, 8 & 9,

schedule and locations to be precised on Lab'Bel's website

<https://www.lab-bel.com/en/events/>

The project will be photographed by Ernst van Deursen.

Media contact

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